

U.S. Representative Barbara Lee



Ninth Congressional District, California

2005-2006 Progress Report

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2005-2006 Progress Report**

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Federal Funding

In 2005, Congresswoman Lee worked to ensure that Congress approved more than **\$69 million** in funding for East Bay projects, money that has gone to education and transportation initiatives, improving public safety, reducing crime and increasing the capacity of the Port of Oakland.

The **FY '06 Energy and Water Appropriations** bill included **\$5,585,000** for Operations and Maintenance for the Port of Oakland and **\$48 million** to continue funding the Port of Oakland's 50 foot dredging project. The dredging project is part of an \$800 million expansion project funded by the Port that will improve infrastructure, expand capacity and increase efficiencies throughout the distribution chain.

The Port projects that the finished project will create an additional 8,800 jobs, a \$1.9 billion increase in business revenue, and an increase of \$55.5 million in local tax revenues. All of the dredged materials will be reused for wetlands restoration, habitat enhancement, and upland use within the San Francisco Bay Area.

The **FY '06 Science, State, Commerce, Justice Appropriations** bill included **\$600,000** for the Chabot Space and Science Center in Oakland, California for The Future Programs for Humans in Space Education Programs. The project will provide increased public education and outreach to underserved schools and community groups in Oakland, related to Human Exploration of Space. The funds will be used to translate planetarium programs into different languages (Spanish, Chinese) and additional targeted exhibits and equipment.

The bill also included over \$500,000 for programs designed to reduce crime and youth violence, including:

- **\$100,000** for the Mentoring Center in Oakland, CA to expand its Transition Program. The program is an intensive re-entry program for young people incarcerated in California Youth Authority returning to the Bay Area. The Mentoring Center has worked successfully with this population for twelve years.
- **\$100,000** for Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Center in Oakland for youth violence prevention programs. The program seeks to develop skills in conflict resolution, gang prevention, and alternatives to violence for youth.
- **\$250,000** for Project Avary programs to support children whose parents are imprisoned.

The **FY '06 Transportation, Treasury, HUD, Judiciary, DC Appropriations** bill included more than \$1.1 million for East Bay Projects, including:

- **\$650,000** for Alameda County Public Works Agency for sidewalks and streetscape improvements in Ashland, Cherryland, and Castro Valley.
- **\$300,000** for Ed Roberts Campus to support construction of an intermodal transit center at Ashby BART station in Berkeley to provide transportation information and travel-training for people with disabilities.
- **\$150,000** for renovation of the Fruitvale Masonic Temple to make it into a cultural arts center for the Fruitvale Transit Village.

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As part of the **Safe Accountable Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)**, the long awaited transportation bill approved by Congress in July, Lee also secured more than **\$13 million** in funding for local transportation projects that will strengthen public transportation, improve public safety, reduce traffic and expand recreational opportunities:

- **\$2.508 million** for the Ed Roberts Campus Intermodal transit center above Ashby BART station providing multiple services for disabled people.
- **\$2 million** for I-880 Federal highway safety improvements, High Street to I-980 in Oakland.
- **\$1.672 million** for AC Transit Bus Rapid Transit, bus shelters & intelligent systems, Telegraph Ave/International Blvd./E. 14th St.
- **\$1.2 million** for I-80 Gilman Street interchange improvements in Berkeley.
- **\$960,000** for I-580 Interchange Improvements in Castro Valley.
- **\$836,000** for Intermodal Bus/Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements near 4 BART/Transit Village developments (MacArthur, Coliseum, Fruitvale, & West Oakland).
- **\$836,000** for Ashland/Cherryland Sidewalk construction near Stanton, Fairview, Lake Chabot, Castro Valley, and Marshall Elementary schools.
- **\$800,000** for Intermodal Transit Center at Emeryville Amtrak station & bus stop.
- **\$800,000** for I-238 Widening between I-580 and I-880 in Ashland/Cherryland/San Leandro/San Lorenzo.
- **\$752,400** for San Francisco Bay Trail, Oakland Coliseum – Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline.
- **\$720,000** for Construction of North Airport Cargo Access Road between Doolittle Dr. and Earhart Rd.

Legislative Accomplishments

Congresswoman Lee has introduced 34 pieces of legislation and five amendments in the 108th Congress (please see Appendix A and B for full lists), and despite the partisan political atmosphere in Washington, saw four of her bills pass the House, and one signed into law by the President:

-**H.R. 1409**, Assistance for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act of 2005, 10/18/2005, passed the House 415-9; 10/24/2005 Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent; 11/8/05, signed by the President, became **Public Law No: 109-95**.

-**H.Con.Res. 30**, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, 2/9/05 passed House 422-0

-**H.Con.Res. 71**, Expressing the sense of Congress that there should be established a Caribbean-American Heritage Month, 6/27/05 agreed to by the House on a voice vote

-**H.Res. 196**, Recognizing the anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment and encouraging the American people to educate and instill pride and purpose into their communities and to observe the anniversary annually with appropriate programs and activities, 12/7/05 agreed to by the House on a voice vote

-**H.Amdt.383 to H.R.3057**, an amendment to the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill to ban the sale and transfer of arms for use by the Haitian National Police and require a State Dept. report on the involvement of Haitian police in criminal activity, 6/28/05 agreed to by the House on a voice vote.

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-H.Amdt.750 to H.R.4939, an amendment to the Iraq War supplemental spending bill to prohibit the use of funds to enter in to basing agreements that would lead to a permanent military presence in Iraq, 3/16/06 agreed to by the House on a voice vote.

Leadership

Congresswoman Lee is the most senior Democratic woman on the House International Relations Committee where she serves on the Africa and the Western Hemisphere Subcommittees. She also serves on the House Financial Services Committee, where she sits on the Housing and Domestic and International Monetary Policy Subcommittees. She is the Co-Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, Whip for the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) and a Senior Democratic Whip. She also serves as Chair of the CBC Task Force on Global HIV/AIDS and Co-Chair of the CBC Haiti Task Force.

Issues

Education

In an effort to make college more accessible, Congresswoman Lee worked with community partners on a series of events designed to help high school and college students in the 9th Congressional District.

Scholarship Fair

Congresswoman Lee sponsored a scholarship fair at UC Berkeley, which was attended by more than 200 local high school students. Financial aid counselors and college students explained the college admissions process and how to obtain financial aid. Financial aid directors from local colleges and universities and scholarship organizations were present to distribute vital information and answer questions from students.

Financial Aid Workshops

Congresswoman Lee also sponsored East Bay Cash for College, a series of four workshops designed to help students and families with federal financial aid applications. Students and families who attended the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) workshops received free assistance with their taxes and with filling out federal financial aid forms.

Legislation

In Washington, Congresswoman Lee has supported legislation that improves our public education system, increases access to higher education, and improves the quality of life for our educators. She introduced the **Student Support Act, H.R. 559**, which will increase the amount of school social workers, psychologists, and therapists in our schools. She has fought to increase funds for **No Child Left Behind**, which has been rendered ineffective by underfunding. As the **Higher Education Act** comes up for reauthorization, she will support an increase in the maximum Pell Grant and improved access to higher education for students of color and low-income individuals. She will continue to fight measures like the Drug Clause in the Higher Education Act that drive our children to the streets or to jail, instead of to the classroom.

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Working Families

Approximately \$75 million in federal Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) goes unclaimed in the Bay Area each year.

In 2002, Congresswoman Lee, in collaboration with the United Way of the Bay Area, the city of Oakland, and the Internal Revenue Service launched an effort to increase the number of people claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) in the 9th Congressional District. In the first filing season in 2003, the initiative registered 2,250 tax returns, retrieved \$1.8 million through EITC, and obtained \$3 million in total tax refunds.

The Earn It! Keep It! Save It!, coalition, led by United Way of the Bay Area, now consists of over 200 community-based organizations, government agencies, and financial institutions. The program provides free tax return preparation service, assistance with filing tax credit claims, and asset building information to eligible Bay Area residents.

Since the launch of the Earn It! Keep It! Save It! Campaign four years ago, the number of families that have been assisted as well as the total amount of tax refunds coming back to the Bay Area have steadily increased. Last year, the initiative helped 4,600 low-income Alameda County families claim \$4.9 million in tax refunds. Around the Bay Area, the coalition established 93 regional VITA sites in 7 Bay Area counties, with 1,529 assisting taxpayers to generate 13,555 federal tax returns for a total of \$15.2 million in refunds.

Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit (Part D)

Town hall meetings

In an effort to help constituents make informed decisions about the complex and flawed new Medicare Prescription Drug program (Medicare Part D), the Congresswoman held town hall meetings throughout the district. Experts from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), AARP, Families USA and Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) were on hand to explain the sometimes confusing new federal drug benefit and to provide advice for local seniors on what plan may be best for them and assistance in enrolling in them.

Legislation

Congresswoman Lee has fought to make major changes to the deeply flawed prescription drug program, in order to turn it into a program that works for Medicare beneficiaries instead of pharmaceutical companies and HMOs. Among other legislative initiatives, she has supported the **Medicare Prescription Drug Savings and Choice Act (HR 752)**, which requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate lower prices on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries and **the Medicare Informed Choice Act of 2005 (HR 3861)** which extends enrollment without a late penalty, allows beneficiaries to make a one-time change in prescription drug plan enrollment during any point in 2006, and provides protection from loss of employment-based retiree health coverage upon enrollment for Medicare prescription drug benefit. She will continue to fight for significant changes to the Part D program to ensure it provides truly affordable prescription drugs for seniors and people with disabilities.

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Ethics Reform

The Congresswoman is fighting along side her colleagues to clean up the Republican culture of corruption that has pervaded our nation's capital. She believes that the American people have been paying the price for the culture of corruption and the unprecedented access special interests have had to Congress. America's seniors have seen prescription drug prices rise while trying to navigate a confusing Medicare prescription drug bill written for and by the pharmaceutical industry. While all Americans pay the rising price at the pump, profit-rich energy companies received billions of dollars in tax breaks and subsidies. And Gulf Coast residents are still paying the price for the failed Republican relief efforts that gave no-bid contracts to their cronies.

The Congresswoman is an original co-sponsor of two critical pieces of legislation aimed at reforming the culture of corruption in Congress. Congresswoman Lee supports the **Honest Leadership, Open Government Act (HR 4682)**, which does the following: Fixes the gift and travel rules that allowed Republican lobbyists to buy influence in Congress; Increases transparency and accountability in government: holding Members of Congress accountable to ethics rules and allowing the public to see exactly what their elected representatives are doing in Washington; and closes the revolving door between government and K Street lobbying firms by strengthening the ban on lobbying by former Members of Congress and senior government officials after they leave to work in the private sector. The Congresswoman is also an original co-sponsor of a strong **House Rules Reform package (H. Res. 659)** designed to weaken lobbyist influence, strengthen fiscal discipline, curb abuses of power, outlaw the use of earmarks to buy votes for questionable legislation, create more time for serious Congressional oversight and prevent last minute legislative items from being slipped into conference reports between the House and Senate without a full public vote by the conference committee.

Immigration

Helping constituents with immigration related issues makes up a significant portion of the caseload of Congresswoman Lee's District Office. In the last year, her office has helped resolve 545 immigration cases. Her office held two immigration town hall meetings that were translated into four languages to help constituents get immigration related resources and assistance.

Legislation

Congresswoman Lee opposed **H.R. 418**, the REAL ID Act, which places a burden on states's DMV services by turning DMV employees into immigration experts, restricts the opportunity for people to seek asylum in the U.S., and allows Homeland Security to circumvent environmental protections to build any barriers it sees fit, with no checks or controls on the process.

Additionally, she opposed **HR 4437**, a bill which criminalizes immigrants, and allows them to be jailed for indefinite periods of time. It also deputizes local police forces as ICE agents, which could lead to increased racial profiling. Congresswoman Lee is an advocate for Comprehensive immigration reform, which gives a path to citizenship for those already here, and recognizes the value that immigrants have played and continue to play in U.S. history.

She is a co-sponsor of **H.R. 884**, the Agriculture Job Opportunities, Benefits and Security Act of 2005, which provides legal permanent residency and eligibility for citizenship for people who come in to help in the farming industry. Additionally, she is a cosponsor of **H.R. 2092**, to increase family sponsorship for immigration and

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expedites asylum process. Also, she is a co-sponsor of **H.R. 3006**, the Permanent Partners Immigration Act, to allow a U.S. citizen to sponsor their same-sex partner for immigration purposes.

Social Security

Last year Democrats successfully defeated this administration's plan to privatize Social Security, the most successful anti-poverty program in the world. Without Social Security, forty-eight percent of our nation's seniors would be impoverished. The President's risky privatization and investment scheme would cut this guaranteed earned benefit by almost fifty percent.

Congresswoman Lee hosted a town hall meeting in February and an online forum in May to explain the true pitfalls of privatizing Social Security. The E-town hall was the first ever on-line town hall meeting for the 9th congressional district.

Congressional Oversight and Accountability

Congresswoman Lee believes that Congress has a Constitutional responsibility to conduct oversight over the administration, and, in the absence of such oversight being conducted in the House of Representatives, has used procedural means to force a debate

Specifically, Resolutions of Inquiry are privileged resolutions that request specific information or materials from the President or his administration. Once introduced, if the Committee to which the resolution is referred does not take action on the resolution within fourteen legislative days, the author is entitled to request a vote on the resolution on the House floor.

Congresswoman Lee's Resolutions of Inquiry have forced debate on the Downing Street Memo, the warrantless NSA spying program and the use of secret torture bases in Europe in both the House International Relations Committee and Intelligence Committee. Her resolutions are part of a larger effort on the part of Democratic House members to force debate at the committee level, and draw attention to the lack of oversight and accountability in Congress today.

Port Security

In August, Congresswoman Lee hosted Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Committee, Bennie Thompson (D-MS). Lee and Thompson visited the Port of Oakland to review security procedures and held a roundtable discussion with local first responders on homeland security issues.

While the proposed deal that would give control over a number of our nation's largest seaports over to a company owned by the United Arab Emirates has focused national attention on the issue of port security, the issue of security goes far beyond foreign ownership.

In April 2005, the Port of Oakland became the first port in the nation to fully install Radiation Portal Monitors at every one of its international marine terminals. Every container entering the Port is now screened for nuclear weapons or materials. As the fourth largest container port in the nation, that's about 700,000 screened containers a year.

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Unfortunately, other ports around the nation cannot detect and prevent the entry of nuclear materials into our country. Under the current plan, it would take at least until 2009 before every port is fully equipped with Radiation Portal Monitors.

The Coast Guard estimated in 2002 that \$7 billion is needed for port security, but in the last four years Congress has only provided \$737 million.

As a member of the Congressional Port Security Caucus, Congresswoman Lee is committed to fighting to make sure our nation's ports have the resources they need to be secure against terrorist attack.

Legislation

Congresswoman Lee is a co-sponsor of several pieces of legislation intended to increase grants for port security (**H.R. 478**); ensure that all cargo is screened prior to entering US ports (**HR 4899**); and, expand physical security, provide positive identification for all personnel, and devise a long term strategy to enhance port security (**HR 4954**).

Violence Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform

Each year, across the nation some 600,000 people return from jail. Approximately 10,000 people come back to serve probation or parole in Alameda County annually. The difficulties faced by returnees in finding work, acquiring stable housing, pursuing education and otherwise stabilizing their lives contribute to recidivism and act as a barrier to the economic and social development of the community.

Criminal Record Remedies

Following up on recommendations from the Status of the African American Male Conference in Oakland in December, Congresswoman Lee began to work with local community organizations and officials from the courts and probation system to help returnees put their pasts behind them.

Those efforts gave rise to a Criminal Record Remedy summit in April. Since then, community organizations have continued to work with the Courts, the District Attorney and the Public Defender to expedite the dismissal process and to develop criminal records Self-Help Centers. Since the summit, more than 2,000 applications have been received, and 969 petitions have been granted, and Congresswoman Lee's office will be following up on these efforts with another records remedies summit in the fall.

Legislation

The Congresswoman is a primary supporter of the Second Chance Act, which would reauthorize and increase the Re-Entry Demonstration grant program with an enhanced focus on jobs, housing, substance abuse treatment/mental health, and children and families. It would also create a National Offender Re-entry resource center to support the work of states, local government, service providers, faith-based organization, corrections and community organizations to collect and disseminate best practices and provide training and support around reentry. Finally, it would create a federal task force to identify programs and resources on re-entry, identify ways to better collaborate, develop interagency initiatives and a national re-entry research agenda. The taskforce would review and report to Congress on the federal barriers that exist to successful re-entry with recommendations.

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HIV/AIDS

Congresswoman Lee's accomplishments in promoting effective, bipartisan measures to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS and bring treatment to the infected have earned her recognition both at home and abroad as a leader in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Lee was a leader in the bipartisan effort to designate \$15 billion for the prevention, care, and treatment of HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria. She authored the bill to establish the framework for the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS as well as recently passed legislation to address the needs of orphans and vulnerable children, many of whom are victims of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

In April 2005, Congresswoman Lee delivered the keynote address at amfAR's (The Foundation for AIDS Research) 17th National HIV Update Conference in Oakland, CA. In December, she also attended and spoke at the first ever conference on African American women and HIV/AIDS entitled: All About MEE! Mobilization, Education & Empowerment, organized by the Black AIDS Institute in Los Angeles, CA.

As a member of the Alameda County African American HIV/AIDS State of Emergency Task Force, Congresswoman Lee worked with other elected officials at the local and county level to declare the first ever Countywide State of Emergency as a result of HIV/AIDS.

H.R. 1409

This year Congresswoman Lee introduced, Congress passed, and the President signed into law (Public Law No: 109-95) H.R. 1409, the Assistance for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act of 2005.

The Assistance for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act of 2005 establishes the position of Special Advisor for Orphans and Vulnerable Children within the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to better coordinate and provide assistance in support of basic care; treatment for HIV-infected children; psychosocial support; school food programs; educational opportunities through the elimination of school fees; and inheritance rights for orphans and vulnerable children.

Lee's bill had 130 co-sponsors and support from more than 30 non-governmental organizations working on HIV/AIDS and international aid issues.

H.R. 2553

In May, Congresswoman Lee introduced the Responsible Education About Life Act (Formerly the Family Life Education Act) which seeks to reduce the rate of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases among adolescents by providing comprehensive sex education and disease prevention education and information in public schools.

H.R. 1408

In March, Congresswoman Lee introduced H.R. 1408, a bill designed to reinforce the importance of assisting India in its fight against AIDS by adding it as the 16th country under the authority of the Global AIDS Coordinator.

Lee's bill would give the Global AIDS Coordinator the mandate to move more aggressively with US assistance to combat the growing AIDS epidemic in India. As the world's largest democracy with a population of over one billion people, the Republic of India stands at a crossroads in its response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

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UNAIDS estimates that 5 million people may already be infected, putting India just behind South Africa as the country with the largest total disease burden. According to the National Intelligence Council, without the urgent implementation of a sizable, coordinated, and sustained response to the epidemic, India could have as many as 25 million cases of HIV/AIDS by the end of the decade.

H.R. 4633

In December, Congresswoman Lee introduced H.R. 4633, the HIV/AIDS Emergency Hurricane Relief Act, legislation aimed at ensuring continuing treatment and care for people living with HIV/AIDS who have been displaced by recent hurricanes.

While making up a small portion of the people displaced by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, people living with AIDS are among the most vulnerable. Lack of access to medication and treatment, stress and inadequate shelter or food are potentially life threatening considerations for people living with compromised immune systems. There is also concern in the public health community that lack of access to anti-retroviral treatments may lead to drug resistant forms of the virus.

H.Con.Res. 30

In February, Congresswoman Lee introduced and the House passed a resolution designed to support the goals and ideals of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. Lee authored the resolution to raise awareness among the general public and her colleagues in Congress, as African Americans are increasingly bearing the brunt of the AIDS epidemic in the United States.

H.Con.Res 193

In June, Congresswoman Lee introduced H.Con.Res 193, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National HIV Testing Day.

H.Con.Res. 211

In July Congresswoman Lee introduced H.Con.Res. 211, expressing the sense of Congress that the United States Postal Service should issue a commemorative postage stamp honoring victims of HIV/AIDS and recognizing the struggle to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS in the United States and throughout the world.

Upcoming legislation:

Congresswoman Lee is also working on legislation that she will soon introduce that is intended to combat HIV, Hepatitis C and other STD's in prisons by improving and expanding education, testing and treatment programs.

Congresswoman Lee will also be reintroducing legislation intended to address the persistent social, political, legal, and economic gender inequality that increases the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV infection.

Iraq

Town Hall Meetings

In March, 2006, Congresswoman hosted a Town Hall meeting at the Grand Lake Theater in Oakland on the Third Anniversary of the invasion of Iraq to address ending the war in Iraq and preventing the establishment of permanent bases there. It was attended by more than 750 people. In July, 2005, she hosted a Town Hall meeting at the Grand Lake Theater in Oakland to address the manipulation of pre-war intelligence, the unclassified minutes of the Downing Street meeting, and the war in Iraq. The event was held on the third

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anniversary of the secret meeting between U.S. and British officials in 2002 whose minutes have come to be known as the “Downing Street Memo” and was attended by more than 900 people.

H.Res. 375

Congresswoman Lee introduced H.Res. 375, a Resolution of Inquiry that would require the President and Secretary of State to give Congress all information relating to communication with officials of the United Kingdom relating to U.S. policy in Iraq between January 1, 2002 and October 16, 2002, the date Congress authorized the President to use force in Iraq. Lee’s bill, which had bipartisan support and 82 co-sponsors, was a privileged resolution, which means that if it was taken up by the International Relations Committee in 14 legislative days, Lee would have been entitled to request that it be brought to the House floor for a vote.

Lee’s use of this procedural maneuver forced a heated debate about the role of Congressional oversight in relation to the war in Iraq, and while the committee voted against the resolution, the vote marked the first time all committee Democrats have agreed on a vote relating to Iraq, and even drew the support of Republican James Leach of Iowa. Other Democrats have adopted the use of such resolutions to force a debate on Iraq on the committee level, if not on the House floor.

H.Res. 197

In June, Congresswoman Lee introduced H.Res. 197, a bill stating that it is “the policy of the United States not to enter into any base agreements with the Government of Iraq that would lead to a permanent United States military presence in Iraq.” The bill has 77 cosponsors. Lee previously introduced a similar measure as an amendment to the State Department Authorization bill during the International Relations Committee consideration of the bill and successfully passed a similar measure as an amendment to the emergency war supplemental in March, 2006.

H.Res. 82

In February, Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA) introduced a congressional resolution calling on the Congress to disavow the “Doctrine of Preemption”, a controversial policy under which the Bush Administration claims the right to attack another nation without provocation.

Poverty

Hurricane Katrina pulled back the curtain and exposed the ongoing crisis of poverty in the United States. While poverty rates declined steadily throughout the 1990s, since 2000 they have been increasing dramatically. Today, there are more than 37 million people living in poverty in the United States, more than 5 million more than there were five years ago.

The impact of this growing poverty is disproportionately falling on minorities. Since 2000, median income has declined by 2.1 percent among non-Hispanic whites, by 7.4 percent among blacks, and by 5.9 percent among Hispanics. Almost one quarter of African Americans and 21.9 percent of Latinos live in poverty, compared to 8.6 percent of non-Hispanic whites and 9.8 percent of Asians.

Congresswoman Lee introduced a comprehensive package of poverty legislation designed to make the issue of eradicating poverty a national priority and focus the debate. These three bills are designed to create leadership, accountability and a national reevaluation of our economic priorities in developing policies to eliminate poverty in our nation.

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H.Con.Res. 234

This resolution calls on the President Bush to submit to Congress a plan to eradicate poverty by 2010.

H.Con.Res. 282

This resolution expresses the sense of the Congress that the tax give away since 2001 to the wealthiest 5 percent of Americans should be repealed and those monies instead invested in vital programs to relieve the growing burden on the working poor and to alleviate poverty in America.

H.R. 4600

The Poverty Impact Trigger Act of 2005 requires accountability from Congress by requiring Congress to report on the poverty impact of its legislative activities.

Housing

Affordable Housing and HUD Housing Programs

As a member of the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing, the Congresswoman successfully led the battle to protect and preserve many critical housing programs. The Congresswoman helped defeat the administration's efforts to block grant the Section 8 program and helped prevent the administration's proposed elimination of the HOPE VI program, which helped build the Mandela Gateway development which opened in Oakland this past year. In July, Congresswoman Lee co-authored a successful amendment to increase funding for fair housing enforcement. Congresswoman Lee also continued her efforts to bring new affordable housing to the district and has convened roundtables with developers and organized tours of available sites for affordable housing projects. In Congress, she is the lead Democrat on legislation to establish a \$5 billion Affordable Housing trust Fund to produce, rehabilitate and preserve 1.5 million homes over the next 10 years and create 1.8 million new jobs and \$50 billion in wages.

Legislation

H.R. 790

The Public Housing Drug Elimination Act reauthorizes and fund Public Housing Drug Elimination Program (PHDEP) grants, for the purchase of: hiring security guards for public housing and coordinating programs with local law enforcement and emergency responders; providing after-school programs for at-risk teens and youth; offering residents alcohol and substance abuse counseling; providing courses for job training and workforce preparedness; and installing security cameras to protect families, the elderly, and the disabled who reside in public housing.

H.R. 1309

The One Strike and You're Out! Act of 2005 would revise current policy to offer eviction protections for elderly or handicapped public housing residents whose relatives or guests commit a crime.

H.R. 4278

The Community Partners Next Door Act of 2005 makes it easier for teachers and first responders to own a home in the community they work in by: discounting the property to 50 percent of the current market value in order to make it affordable for teachers and first-responders; raising the FHA upper loan limit to allow participants in high-cost areas to participate in the FHA Homebuyer program; creating a fund for the Department of Housing and Urban Development to work with the Department of Education and the Department

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of Homeland Security to establish a mass public education and awareness campaign for teachers and first-responders to be made aware of the program.

Darfur

As a member of the House International Relations Subcommittee on Africa, Congresswoman Lee continues to lead the effort in Congress to stop the genocide. In January 2005, she visited refugee camps along the Chad-Sudan border as part of a Congressional delegation that included actor Don Cheadle, who was nominated for an academy award for his role in the film Hotel Rwanda. In February, 2006, she returned to Darfur on a Congressional delegation led by House minority leader, Nancy Pelosi. Earlier this month she met with Ambassador John Bolton and Secretary General Kofi Annan to discuss efforts to expand and transition the AU forces to a UN presence aimed at ending the violence that continues unabated.

Congresswoman Lee has also been a leading voice in the growing movement to divest state pension funds and university endowments from companies doing business in Sudan. In July, the House International Relations Subcommittee on Africa approved three of her amendments regarding the divestment movement, including two amendments praising state divestment laws and encouraging other states to follow, and one to prohibit companies doing business in Sudan from trading in U.S. capital markets. She also wrote a letter to the U.C. Regents that was signed by 21 members of the California Congressional delegation, urging them to divest in advance of their recent decision to do so. Currently, the Congresswoman is seeking delegation support for a letter to the CEOs and board members of CalPERS and CalSTRS requesting that each develop a divestment plan.

Haiti

Rep. Lee is a progressive leader of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee of the International Relations Committee, and co-chair of the CBC Haiti Taskforce. Over the years, international human rights observers have condemned the corruption and systematic human rights abuses of the Haitian National Police (HNP). When Rep. Lee learned that the State Department was violating U.S. policy by sending defense articles to Haiti and arming this unchecked band of officers, she led the Congress to immediate action.

In June 2005, the House International Relations Committee unanimously adopted Rep. Lee's amendment to require a full disclosure of any weapons that the State Department shipped to the Haitian National Police (HNP) from October 1991 through 2005. During the Committee's consideration of H.R. 2601, the Foreign Operations Authorization bill, both Democrats and Republicans shared her concerns that the United States should strongly reconsider the practice of arming the HNP.

Part-two of Lee's effort succeeded during congressional consideration of H.R. 3057, the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2006. In November, both the House and Senate agreed to immediately ban the State Department from shipping any arms to Haiti.

Legislation

H.R 945

The New Partnership for Haiti Act will provide technical assistance and resources to expand and develop Haiti's health sector through local partnerships for sanitation and water project, use of the Army Corps. of Engineers for road development to major health clinics, especially in rural Haiti, and fight infectious diseases,

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like HIV/AIDS, while improving healthcare infrastructure and expanding care. The bill will also create a pilot program for American Health Professionals and Engineers who are interested in going to Haiti and helping with the development process.

H.R. 946

The Haiti TRUTH (The Responsibility to Uncover the Truth about Haiti) Act would form a TRUTH commission to investigate the role of the Bush administration in Haiti prior to the exile of President Aristide.

Environment

Congresswoman Lee held an environmental town hall meeting in West Oakland last February, to provide a venue for constituents to discuss ongoing environmental and public health problems that stem from environmental justice issues in the surrounding community. West Oakland has among the highest Asthma rates in the U.S and is home to both the Port of Oakland, and the West Oakland United States Postal Service facility, which both process and transfer high volumes of cargo via diesel trucks.

West Oakland has among the highest Asthma rates in the U.S., and constituents have asked for Congresswoman Lee's help in addressing the resulting air pollution & environmental justice issues in their communities.

In response, Congresswoman Lee's office has been working with the West Oakland United States Postal Service facility and the Port of Oakland in efforts to find creative means to address pollution issues and clean up the local environment

She is also working with alternative fuel organizations like Community Fuels and Bio Fuel Oasis to make biodiesel and other renewables, as well as the jobs they can bring with them, home to the 9th District.

EPA Enforcement

She recently spearheaded a Congressional letter to the Environmental Protection Agency on the 25th anniversary of the Superfund program, which urged the EPA to follow through in establishing guidelines mandated by Congress to prevent polluters from avoiding their environmental cleanup responsibilities by declaring bankruptcy. The letter urged the EPA to establish so called "financial assurance" mechanisms as required by law to regulate businesses handling hazardous materials regardless if any pollution has taken place. Such guidelines could have helped to pay for cleanup and may have even prevented the original contamination at the AMCO facility in West Oakland which was officially designated a Superfund site on September 29, 2003.

Legislation

As a member of the Democratic Caucus' Environmental Taskforce, Congresswoman Lee has also spoken out in Congress about the importance of addressing environmental justice issues, as well as defending against the administrations attempts to rollback and repeal our nation's environmental laws. Congresswoman Lee will soon be introducing legislation intended to restore the administrations most egregious rollbacks on environmental law and ensure that public and environmental health is not subsumed by corporate interests.

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Appendix A: Legislation in the 108th Congress

1. [H.CON.RES.30](#)

Major Actions: [Help](#) House

Title: Supporting the goals and ideals of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 1/26/2005) **Cosponsors:** [59](#)

Committees: House Energy and Commerce; Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Latest Major Action: 2/17/2005 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

2. [H.CON.RES.58](#)

Title: Expressing the sense of Congress that the United States Postal Service should issue a commemorative postage stamp honoring former Representative Shirley Chisholm, and that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend to the Postmaster General that such a stamp be issued.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 2/14/2005) **Cosponsors:** [52](#)

Committees: House Government Reform

Latest Major Action: 2/14/2005 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Government Reform.

3. [H.CON.RES.71](#)

Major Actions: [Help](#) House Senate

Title: Expressing the sense of Congress that there should be established a Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 2/17/2005) **Cosponsors:** [81](#)

Committees: House Government Reform; Senate Judiciary

Latest Major Action: 2/14/2006 Passed/agreed to in Senate. Status: Resolution agreed to in Senate without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent.

4. [H.CON.RES.193](#)

Title: Supporting the goals and ideals of National HIV Testing Day.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 6/27/2005) **Cosponsors:** (none)

Committees: House Energy and Commerce

Latest Major Action: 7/1/2005 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

5. [H.CON.RES.197](#)

Title: Declaring that it is the policy of the United States not to enter into any base agreement with the Government of Iraq that would lead to a permanent United States military presence in Iraq.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 6/30/2005) **Cosponsors:** [77](#)

Committees: House International Relations

Latest Major Action: 6/30/2005 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on International Relations.

6. [H.CON.RES.211](#)

Title: Expressing the sense of Congress that the United States Postal Service should issue a commemorative

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postage stamp honoring victims of HIV/AIDS and recognizing the struggle to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS in the United States and throughout the world.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 7/20/2005) **Cosponsors:** (none)

Committees: House Government Reform

Latest Major Action: 7/20/2005 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Government Reform.

7. [H.CON.RES.233](#)

Title: Affirming the obligation and leadership of the United States to improve the lives of the 35,900,000 Americans living in poverty and an additional 15,300,000 Americans living in extreme poverty.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 9/6/2005) **Cosponsors:** (none)

Committees: House Government Reform

Latest Major Action: 9/6/2005 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Government Reform.

8. [H.CON.RES.234](#)

Title: Affirming the obligation and leadership of the United States to improve the lives of the 37,162,000 Americans living in poverty and the 15,600,000 of those who live in extreme poverty.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 9/7/2005) **Cosponsors:** [57](#)

Committees: House Government Reform

Latest Major Action: 9/7/2005 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Government Reform.

9. [H.CON.RES.282](#)

Title: Expressing the sense of the Congress that the tax give away since 2001 to the wealthiest 5 percent of Americans should be repealed and those monies instead invested in vital programs to relieve the growing burden on the working poor and to alleviate poverty in America.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 10/27/2005) **Cosponsors:** [19](#)

Committees: House Ways and Means

Latest Major Action: 10/27/2005 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

10. [H.RES.82](#)

Title: Disavowing the doctrine of preemption.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 2/9/2005) **Cosponsors:** [13](#)

Committees: House International Relations

Latest Major Action: 2/9/2005 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on International Relations.

11. [H.RES.196](#)

Major Actions: [Help](#) [House](#)

Title: Recognizing the anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment and encouraging the American people to educate and instill pride and purpose into their communities and to observe the anniversary annually with appropriate programs and activities.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 4/6/2005) **Cosponsors:** [101](#)

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Committees: House Judiciary

Latest Major Action: 12/7/2005 Passed/agreed to in House. Status: On motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution Agreed to by voice vote.

12. [H.RES.327](#)

Title: Supporting the goals and ideals of National Passport Month.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 6/16/2005) **Cosponsors:** [50](#)

Committees: House Government Reform

Latest Major Action: 6/16/2005 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Government Reform.

13. [H.RES.375](#)

Title: Requesting the President and directing the Secretary of State to transmit to the House of Representatives not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution all information in the possession of the President and the Secretary of State relating to communication with officials of the United Kingdom between January 1, 2002, and October 16, 2002, relating to the policy of the United States with respect to Iraq.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 7/21/2005) **Cosponsors:** [83](#)

Committees: House International Relations

House Reports: [109-223](#)

Latest Major Action: 9/16/2005 Placed on the House Calendar, Calendar No. 87.

14. [H.RES.641](#)

Title: Requesting the President to provide to the House of Representatives certain documents in his possession relating to electronic surveillance without search warrants on individuals in the United States.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 12/18/2005) **Cosponsors:** [29](#)

Committees: House Intelligence (Permanent Select)

House Reports: [109-385](#)

Latest Major Action: 3/7/2006 Placed on the House Calendar, Calendar No. 152.

15. [H.RES.642](#)

Title: Requesting the President and directing the Secretary of State to provide to the House of Representatives certain documents in their possession relating to the Secretary of State's trip to Europe in December 2005.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 12/18/2005) **Cosponsors:** [13](#)

Committees: House International Relations

House Reports: [109-376](#)

Latest Major Action: 2/10/2006 Placed on the House Calendar, Calendar No. 147.

16. [H.R.438](#)

Major Actions: [Help](#) 

Title: To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2000 Allston Way in Berkeley, California, as the "Maudelle Shirek Post Office Building".

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 2/1/2005) **Cosponsors:** [51](#)

Committees: House Government Reform

Latest Major Action: 9/27/2005 Failed of passage/not agreed to in House. Status: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Failed by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 190 - 215 (Roll no. 495).

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17. [H.R.559](#)

Title: To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to States for assistance in hiring additional school-based mental health and student service providers.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 2/2/2005) **Cosponsors:** [29](#)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 3/24/2005 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Education Reform.

18. [H.R.560](#)

Title: Peace Stamp for the Peace Corps Act

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 2/2/2005) **Cosponsors:** [11](#)

Committees: House Government Reform; House International Relations

Latest Major Action: 2/2/2005 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

19. [H.R.608](#)

Title: Private Bill; For the relief of Geert Botzen.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 2/2/2005) **Cosponsors:** (none)

Committees: House Judiciary

Latest Major Action: 2/14/2005 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims.

20. [H.R.768](#)

Title: Family Life Education Act

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 2/10/2005) **Cosponsors:** [83](#)

Committees: House Energy and Commerce

Latest Major Action: 2/25/2005 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

21. [H.R.790](#)

Title: Public Housing Drug Elimination Program Reauthorization Act of 2005

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 2/14/2005) **Cosponsors:** [57](#)

Committees: House Financial Services

Latest Major Action: 3/21/2005 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity.

22. [H.R.945](#)

Title: New Partnership for Haiti Act of 2005

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 2/17/2005) **Cosponsors:** [31](#)

Committees: House International Relations

Latest Major Action: 3/17/2005 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on

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the Western Hemisphere.

23. [H.R.946](#)

Title: To establish the Independent Commission on the 2004 Coup d'Etat in the Republic of Haiti.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 2/17/2005) **Cosponsors:** [20](#)

Committees: House International Relations

Latest Major Action: 3/17/2005 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere.

24. [H.R.1050](#)

Title: A Living Wage, Jobs For All Act

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 3/2/2005) **Cosponsors:** (none)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce; House Budget; House Armed Services; House Rules

Latest Major Action: 3/24/2005 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.

25. [H.R.1309](#)

Title: One Strike and You're Out! Act of 2005

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 3/15/2005) **Cosponsors:** [17](#)

Committees: House Financial Services

Latest Major Action: 4/11/2005 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity.

26. [H.R.1408](#)

Title: To provide assistance to combat HIV/AIDS in India, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 3/17/2005) **Cosponsors:** [9](#)

Committees: House International Relations

Latest Major Action: 3/17/2005 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on International Relations.

27. [H.R.1409](#)

Major Actions: [Help](#) [House](#) [Senate](#) [Law](#)

Title: Assistance for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act of 2005

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 3/17/2005) **Cosponsors:** [130](#)

Committees: House International Relations

Latest Major Action: 11/8/2005 Became Public Law No: 109-95 [[Text](#), [PDF](#)]

28. [H.R.1410](#)

Title: Menopausal Hormone Replacement Therapies and Alternative Treatments and Fairness Act

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 3/17/2005) **Cosponsors:** [5](#)

Committees: House Energy and Commerce; House Ways and Means; House Education and the Workforce; House Government Reform; House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 4/18/2005 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations.

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29. [H.R.2553](#)

Title: Responsible Education About Life Act

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 5/23/2005) **Cosponsors:** [134](#)

Committees: House Energy and Commerce

Latest Major Action: 6/3/2005 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

30. [H.R.3000](#)

Title: Josephine Butler United States Health Service Act

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 6/20/2005) **Cosponsors:** [11](#)

Committees: House Energy and Commerce; House Education and the Workforce; House Ways and Means

Latest Major Action: 7/25/2005 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.

31. [H.R.3064](#)

Title: Pursuit of International Education Act of 2005

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 6/24/2005) **Cosponsors:** [8](#)

Committees: House International Relations

Latest Major Action: 6/24/2005 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on International Relations.

32. [H.R.4278](#)

Title: Community Partners Next Door Act of 2005

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 11/9/2005) **Cosponsors:** [13](#)

Committees: House Financial Services

Latest Major Action: 1/5/2006 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity.

33. [H.R.4600](#)

Title: Poverty Impact Trigger Act of 2005

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 12/16/2005) **Cosponsors:** (none)

Committees: House Rules; House Budget

Latest Major Action: 12/16/2005 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

34. [H.R.4633](#)

Title: HIV/AIDS Emergency Hurricane Relief Act

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 12/17/2005) **Cosponsors:** (none)

Committees: House Energy and Commerce

Latest Major Action: 1/3/2006 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

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Appendix B: Amendments in the 108th Congress

1. [H.AMDT.373](#) to [H.R.3057](#)

Title: An amendment to increase the United States contribution to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria by \$600 million.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 6/28/2005) **Cosponsors:** (none)

Latest Major Action: 6/28/2005 Mr. Kolbe raised a point of order against the Lee amendment (A003). Mr. Kolbe stated that the provisions of the Lee amendment sought to change existing law and constituted legislation in an appropriations bill. The Chair sustained the point of order.

2. [H.AMDT.383](#) to [H.R.3057](#)

Title: An amendment to prohibit funds made available in the Act from being used to transfer excess property of an agency of the United States Government to the Government of Haiti.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 6/28/2005) **Cosponsors:** (none)

Latest Major Action: 6/28/2005 House amendment agreed to. Status: On agreeing to the Lee amendment (A013) Agreed to by voice vote.

3. [H.AMDT.422](#) to [H.R.3058](#)

Title: Amendment sought to prohibit the use of funds in the bill to enforce restrictions on travel to Cuba for educational purposes.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 6/30/2005) **Cosponsors:** (none)

Latest Major Action: 6/30/2005 House amendment not agreed to. Status: On agreeing to the Lee amendment (A029) Failed by recorded vote: 187 - 233 (Roll no. 346).

4. [H.AMDT.749](#) to [H.R.4939](#)

Title: An amendment to prohibit the use of funds from being available to implement, administer, or enforce the termination of the hotel and motel emergency sheltering program established by FEMA for families displaced by Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes of the 2005 season.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 3/16/2006) **Cosponsors:** (none)

Latest Major Action: 3/16/2006 House amendment not agreed to. Status: On agreeing to the Lee amendment (A049) Failed by recorded vote: 189 - 230 (Roll no. 63).

5. [H.AMDT.750](#) to [H.R.4939](#)

Title: An amendment to prohibit the use of funds from being available to enter into a basing rights agreement between the United States and Iraq.

Sponsor: [Rep Lee, Barbara](#) [D-CA-9] (introduced 3/16/2006) **Cosponsors:** (none)

Latest Major Action: 3/16/2006 House amendment agreed to. Status: On agreeing to the Lee amendment (A050) Agreed to by voice vote.